

B. Claims

The present Amendment has been prepared in accordance with a revised format established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as set forth in the O.G. Notice 1267 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 106 of February 25, 2003.

Please cancel claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer and amend claims 13-15 and 17-26 as follows. In accordance with the revised amendment format, a complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. - 11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original) A liquid crystal composition comprising:

a1 a discotic liquid crystal and a rod-shaped liquid crystal disposed in mutually separate phases,

wherein the discotic liquid crystal is in a nematic discotic phase.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal composition according to Claim 12, wherein the rod-shaped liquid crystal is a nematic liquid crystal.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal composition according to Claim 12, wherein said discotic liquid crystal comprises a polymeric discotic liquid crystal formed by polymerization of a polymerizable discotic liquid crystal compound.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal composition according to Claim 14, wherein said polymeric discotic liquid crystal has been formed by photopolymerization of the polymerizable discotic liquid crystal compound.

16. (Original) A liquid crystal device, including a liquid crystal layer comprising a discotic liquid crystal and a rod-shaped liquid crystal disposed in mutually separate phases, wherein the discotic liquid crystal is in a nematic discotic phase.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, wherein the liquid crystal layer is disposed on at least one substrate subjected to an aligning treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, wherein said discotic liquid crystal is placed in an edge-on and uniaxial alignment state.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, wherein said rod-shaped liquid crystal has an in-plane switching characteristic.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, wherein the liquid crystal layer is placed in an alignment state where the discotic liquid crystal and the rod-shaped liquid crystal are aligned to have alignment directors which are directed in an identical direction.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, wherein the liquid crystal layer is placed in an alignment state where the discotic liquid crystal and the rod-shaped liquid crystal are aligned to have alignment directors which are perpendicular to each other.

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cont.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, wherein ~~wherein~~ either one of the discotic liquid crystal and the rod-shaped liquid crystal is a polymeric liquid crystal.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, which is a reflection-type device emitting light reflected therefrom as a display signal.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 22, further including a light-absorbing plate behind the device.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 22, further including a reflection plate behind the device.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, which is a projection-type device emitting light therefrom to be projected onto a screen.

27. (Original) A liquid crystal apparatus comprising:
a liquid crystal device according to Claim 16, and

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cont.

drive means for driving the liquid crystal device.
